(1) Such steps should be taken as would give the people's representatives controlling authority in the administration of the State. A consultation of the people's representatives and those of Government should be held.

(2) The power of electing representatives to the Popular Assembly should be based on the numerical strength of the different communities, their landed property and education, as such a method of election would remove the general grievance that, in the matter of popular election and Government appointments, certain communities received more than they were entitled to. That would also ensure a fair share of popular control to such communities as the Mahomedans, Ezhavas, Christians, &c., whose complaint was that they were not represented in proportion to the tax they paid or their educational status or their material interests at stake.

(3) Such representatives of the people should have powers (*a*) to frame the budget, (*b*) to interpellate Government on general questions of administration, (*c*) to enact laws, (*d*) to elect important officials of the State including the Dewan, (*e*) to appoint and remove the President and other officers of the Assembly, (*f*) to enquire and cause enquiries to be made into the conduct of the chief officials of the State and (*g*) to pass resolutions, after a thorough investigation, on all public questions except those relating to the Royal House of the State and the British Government. It would be enough if the election of Members to the Assembly took place once in seven years. There should be 2 or 3 meetings of the Assembly every year.

(4) The Members of the Legislative Council should be elected by the Assembly. In fact, the Legislative Council itself should be a Committee of the Assembly.

(5) To look after education, sanitation, public health, means of communication, the agricultural condition of the people, &c., in the Villages, Taluks and Divisions, there should be constituted Village, Taluk and Division Boards respectively. The Members of those bodies should be elected by the people, such bodies exercising control over the respective officials. The measure proposed above should have a statutory basis. The granting of the powers and privileges should first be done in regard to the Assembly and the Division, Taluk and Villages should be taken up thereafter.

Mr. Ulahannan Ulahannan (Member, Minachil Taluk) said that he had nothing more to add to what the previous speakers had stated.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

141. Suggestions for imp oving the Public Service.

Mr. P. K. John M. A., B. L. (Member, Quilon Taluk) said that the policy of securing on loan the services of officers from British India for five years was not to the interests of the State or the people. Such a step made uniformity of policy in departmental administration impossible with the attendant result that, in course of time, there was loss to Government and hardship to the people. It sometimes happened that such officials were men far inferior to the State officials whose efficiency, character, capacity and general level of culture and enlightenment to hold high posts were not questioned. As instances of departments which had suffered from such importation of officers, the Member mentioned the Police and Forest Departments. He added that the general feeling among the people was that the heads of those departments were clever except in their departmental work. He then proceeded to question the special qualifications and merits of Mr. Cunningham to justify his importation and appointment as Police Commissioner.

Dewan.—I have no objection to your making general observations, but I shall not allow you to make personal attacks on any individual officer. You are at liberty to criticise the policy of Government, as such criticisms may be of use. But personal attacks are entirely out of place.

Member.—I cited Mr. Cunningham's case only as an illustration. I have nothing to say against him personally and I have not even seen him. I am simply attacking the principle underlying such appointments. If Government do not like it, I shall stop here.

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Dewan.—I have no intention to stop you. On principle, I am against such personal attacks being made here. For, the officers themselves may not be here and, even if they were here, they have no chance of replying to the Members or defending themselves against their attacks.

I may add, for your personal information and for the information of such of you as may not know it, that Mr. Cunningham is a Police officer who possesses high reputation and who has been held all along in great esteem by the Madras Government and this Government.

Member.—Unfortunately, we have not been able to know it. But what I object to is the policy of borrowing the services of British officers. For, they are not bound by the Travancore Service Regulations and by the time they understand the people, they have to go away. However, out of deference to your ruling I shall omit the remaining portion of this part of my representation.

The Member then proposed that a Competitve Examination for admission to Public service should be instituted. He explained the evils arising from the want of any test of the kind recommended by him. There should also be a definite system of graded service so as to hold out better prospects for brilliant men with qualifications.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

142. Suggestions on general administration of the State.

Mr. Thariathu Kunjithomman (Member, MuvattupuzhaTaluk) said that, as the people were agricultural, the first step to be taken was to increase the production of paddy in the State. The Agricultural Department was doing all it could, but the people should have the precedent condition, *viz.*, education, to follow the advice of the department. Next, they should have means of communication. Those defects were specially prominent in North Travancore. The elevation of the depressed classes to which Government had been devoting themselves of late was desirable. The condition of those people in North Travancore was really deplorable. There were large tracts of land available for registry. If small plots of one acre were set apart for registry among them, they would be largely benefited. In regard to education, the intention of Government and the efforts of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction were not likely to fructify, unless it was ruled that a teacher should have in his class at least 3 or 4 pupils from the depressed classes. The Revenue Department should be thrown open to all classes of His Highness' subjects.

Mr. M. A. Navarkani Rowther (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherry) said that he had nothing to add to what had been stated by Mr. G. Raman Menon, Member Karunagapalli taluk and that he would only emphasize the question of communal representation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly rose for the day at 6 P. M.

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